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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/054,786	01/25/2002	Tsuyoshi Oki	24892	6256
7590	07/13/2004			EXAMINER
			TRAN, THANG V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2653	
DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/054,786	OKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thang Tran	2653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1:

The claim recites a synchronous signal generating method in which a plurality of coding tables is used; however, there are no method steps provided in the body of the claim to constitute such method for generating the synchronous signal. Accordingly, it is unclear what steps are recited or included in the claimed invention in order to constitute a method for generate a synchronous signal as claim 1 directed to.

In claim 5:

The claim recites a recording apparatus in which a plurality of coding tables is used; however, there are no structural limitations (means or circuits) provided in the body of the claim to constitute such recording apparatus. Accordingly, it is unclear what means or circuits are included in the claimed invention in order to constitute a recording apparatus as claim 5 directed to.

In claim 7:

The claim recites a transmitting apparatus in which a plurality of coding tables is used; however, there are no structural limitations (means or circuits) provided in the body of the claim to constitute such transmitting apparatus. Accordingly, it is unclear what means or circuits are included in the claimed invention in order to constitute a transmitting apparatus as claim 7 directed to.

Claims 2-4, 6, and 8-10 are rejected for the same reasons applied to their respective parent claim.

2. Due to an uncertain nature of the claimed invention, no art is applied to determine the allowability of all claims at this time. However, applicant's attention is drawn to the following attached US Patents: 6,215,750; 5,790,056; 5,870,037; 6,297,753; 5,952,944; and 5,506,581 which are directed to a similar subject matter as of the claimed invention.

Cited References

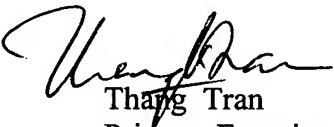
3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited references relate to for recording or transmitting device in which a plurality of coding tables is used.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thang Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-1551.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on 703 305-6137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thang Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2653